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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LAS VEGAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING GRANITE BAY VICTIM IN ALLEGED KIDNAPPING SCHEME**

*The Defendant Admits to Obtaining More than \$350,000 in Fraudulent Scheme*

SACRAMENTO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Placer County Sheriff Edward Bonner announced today that AMIER SADEGHPOUR, 54, of Las Vegas pleaded guilty to two counts of mail fraud before United States District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr. in Sacramento. The defendant admitted in court to obtaining more than \$350,000 in an elaborate scheme in which he falsely told a Granite Bay victim that the funds were needed to secure the release of the defendant's daughter, whom he falsely claimed was being held in Mexico against her will. Judgment and sentencing will take place on October 16, 2008.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Placer County Sheriff's Office.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, defendant SADEGHPOUR admitted in court that the scheme was fraudulent and that he never had a daughter being held in Mexico. The defendant further admitted to obtaining at least five checks from the victim in July 2007, which he cashed at the Bellagio hotel in Las Vegas. The defendant admitted that he did not use the money as represented, and instead lost most of it gambling. The victim has not received any repayment from the defendant, although the defendant has agreed under the plea agreement to make

restitution in this case.

The maximum statutory penalty for mail fraud is 20 years in prison and a three-year term of supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

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